

The business before the Senate is the defense authorization bill. I hope that we can make this day the start of our quest to finish this bill this week and secure final passage without nonrelevant amendments.

Mr. President, there is a difference between a relevant amendment and a germane amendment. A germane amendment is very technical. It has to be a deletion to the bill, or a deletion of money.

There are all sorts of relevant amendments here, including amendments by the Intelligence Committee, most of which have been worked out, that are not germane. If we had invoked cloture a few minutes ago—and I voted against cloture—all of those intelligence amendments would be knocked out. Virtually all the amendments—not all but most of the amendments—that we have worked out that are going on this bill that are relevant but are not germane that we have already accepted but have not passed yesterday would have been knocked out. Any amendments relating to relevant ballistic missile defense—I see the Senator from Arizona on the floor—would be knocked out. The Nunn-Lugar-Domenici amendment which deals directly with the kind of terrorist threat that we have just witnessed in Saudi Arabia brings it home so that we can better protect our own cities. That is the subject of that amendment and certainly a matter of national security, but it would not have been germane to this bill, and that would have been knocked out.

So I know there is a real and a very sincere effort here to get to the bottom line and pass this bill. But in doing so, we cannot prevent our colleagues from offering relevant amendments that are important to our national security, whether we agree with them or not.

So there is a big difference between a relevant amendment and a germane amendment. Germaneness is required after cloture is invoked. I do not think it is time to invoke cloture. I think it would be a mistake to invoke cloture because we would then basically have not considered the serious amendments.

We have spent most of our time considering nonrelevant amendments on this bill. As important as the stalking amendment is, the one that is now pending, that one is not relevant to this bill because it is not in our jurisdiction. It is in the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee. It is going to require outside conferees when we go to conference, if it passes. I intend to vote for it, but we are going to have a hard time getting that through. It is going to slow up the bill. It is very likely going to precipitate a gun amendment then on this side of the aisle, which we all know is going to take time.

So I am just describing to our colleagues that their actions do have an effect on whether we can pass this bill or not.

If we do not stick to relevant amendments that have a connection to na-

tional security and that are in the jurisdiction of this committee and in the jurisdiction of the conference, then we are going to be on this bill all this week. I know the leader said that we are going to stay until we finish it. I applaud that. We will not finish it this week. If he is determined to finish it, it may require next week.

That is the way I see it now, unless we have cooperation from all of our colleagues and stick to amendments that are within the jurisdiction of this committee and this bill.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mrs. HUTCHISON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Texas.

#### TERRORIST ATTACK IN SAUDIA ARABIA

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I want to add my comments to those that have been made regarding the bombing in Saudi Arabia that have stunned our Nation as well as theirs.

It is horrifying to read that a bomb has gone off that leaves a 30-foot deep crater that is 80 feet wide. I am told that this was heard 8 miles away. Nineteen U.S. citizens lost their lives, 80 are injured, and a number of those very seriously. We could not start today's debate on the armed services bill without saying that our hearts go out to the families of those who are affected by this tragedy.

It goes without saying that on a very bipartisan basis Congress will do everything possible to support the President in making sure that we find out who is responsible for this and that there is swift and firm retaliation.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, this armed services authorization bill is so very important. This lays the groundwork for the strength of our defense and the support of our armed services.

So I agree with my colleague from South Carolina, the chairman of the committee, and the ranking member, Senator NUNN, that we must get on with the debate. I think if both sides will work together and determine what are relevant amendments, then hopefully the cloture vote will be in order tomorrow and we can finish this bill.

It is unnecessary for us to drag out this bill that will support our armed services, and most especially in light of what happened yesterday. I think it would be a tragedy if we did not finish this bill, and in fact we are going to finish this bill. We are not going to leave to go on a recess if this bill is not finished.

I hope everyone will be committed to that.

I would just take a slight issue with my colleague, Senator NUNN, talking about the stalking bill, because this is something that we have been trying to put forward for all the women and children of America.

It has been held up by Senator LAUTENBERG because he wants to add another amendment, and I think that the talking part of this legislation applies to military bases and military personnel and therefore is quite relevant. I hope that we can give this protection to the women and children that are in our military, and I hope that Senator LAUTENBERG will also take this opportunity to take his hold off the whole bill so that we could send it to the President before we go into recess.

I appeal to Senator LAUTENBERG to allow that to happen, and then I will certainly work with him to allow some vehicle for him to have an airing on the amendment that he wants to put forward. But there is no reason to hold up the ability for us to give all the protection in this country to the women and children who are victims of stalking, harassment, and threats when we are going on a recess. It does not make sense, and I hope Senator LAUTENBERG will hear our pleas, let this go, and let us work with him to get a vehicle for his amendment.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 4293

(Purpose: To authorize funding and multiyear contracting for the *Arleigh Burke* class destroyer program)

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I would like to start on a series of cleared amendments so that we can make progress on this bill, and I would like to start by offering, on behalf of Senator COHEN and Senator LOTT, an amendment that would make technical corrections to section 124 of the bill regarding *Arleigh Burke* class destroyers to make its intent more explicit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendment will be set aside.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], for Mr. COHEN, for himself and Mr. LOTT, proposes and amendment numbered 4293.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike out section 124 and insert in lieu thereof the following: